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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51, the General Assembly would, inter alia,

(a) Decide to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State and/or Government to be held in early 1995 (operative para. 3);

(b) Accept with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Denmark to host the Summit (operative para. 4);

(c) Decide, taking into account the objectives set out in the resolution, that the core-issues affecting all societies to be addressed by the Summit are (operative para. 6):

(i) The enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups;

(ii) The alleviation and reduction of poverty;

(iii) The expansion of productive employment;

(d) Decide to establish a Preparatory Committee open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly (operative para. 7);

(e) Decide that the Preparatory Committee should hold an organizational session of one week's duration in April 1993 and, at the level of personal representatives of the heads of State and/or Government, three additional substantive sessions in 1994 of no more than 10 working days each at United Nations Headquarters in New York (operative para. 8);

(f) Decide that the Preparatory Committee should (operative para. 10):

(i) Consider the reports submitted to it by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on matters relating to the World Summit for Social Development;

(ii) Draft the provisional agenda of the Summit, in accordance with the provisions of the resolution;

(iii) Prepare the draft decisions for the Summit and submit them to the Summit for consideration and adoption;

(iv) Adopt other appropriate decisions relevant to the successful preparation, outcome and follow-up of the Summit;

(g) Request the Secretary-General to establish an ad hoc secretariat unit, including personnel of the relevant agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, to assist in the preparatory process and the substantive work of the Preparatory Committee (operative para. 11);

(h) Recommend that the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-third session, should give initial consideration to the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development and report to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1993 (operative para. 12);

(i) Recommend also that the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session in 1993 should consider the theme "World Summit for Social Development" (operative para. 13);

(j) Request the regional commissions to include in their programmes of work for 1993 the World Summit for Social Development, with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals, and to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (operative para. 14);

(k) Invite the Secretary-General to provide the resources required for initiating the preparatory process of the World Summit in 1993, including through redeployments (operative para. 18);

(l) Invite also the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund and to mobilize voluntary contributions from public and private sources for the financing of the additional activities required by the preparation and holding of the Summit (operative para. 19);

(m) Decide that the resources of the trust fund should be utilized to finance the participation of the least developed countries in the Summit and its preparatory process (operative para. 20);

(n) Request the Preparatory Committee to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions on the progress of work and the preparations for the Summit (operative para. 21).

B. Description of activities proposed and their estimates at full cost

2. The activities proposed in the draft resolution at the present time fall primarily under programmes 11 (Overall issues and policies, including coordination), 12 (Global development issues and policies), 18 (Population), 25 (Global social issues and policies), 26 (Integration of social groups), programmes 30 to 34 concerning regional cooperation for development, 35 (Promotion and protection of human rights), and 39 (Conference and library services) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ and sections 21 (Social development and humanitarian affairs), 39 (Department of Economic and Social Development), 23 to 27 (Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia respectively), and 41 (Department of Administration and Management) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

Substantive activities

3. Based on the nature of the core issues described in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the related activities would fall within the new economic and social structures being introduced in the second phase of the reorganization of the Secretariat. Such activities would include the preparation of relevant reports, coordination and supervision of substantive preparations, inter-agency coordination, liaison with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and administrative services.

4. With regard to operative paragraph 11 cqncerning the establishment of an ad hoc secretariat unit, attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 35/10 C in which the Assembly decided that the secretariats for special conferences should, to the extent possible, be provided by the existing Secretariat machinery with such temporary strengthening as may be required. The intention of the Secretary-General is to utilize staff resources that will be part of the new structures mentioned above. Such staff resources would be

drawn essentially from the Department of Economic and Social Development and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. In addition, it is expected that additional staff would be made available, as appropriate, from other relevant organizations of the United Nations system.

5. Since the preparation of the Summit was not envisaged when the programme budget for 1992-1993 was approved by the General Assembly, additional resources would be required. First, an additional provision would be required for temporary assistance in the amount of $100,000 in order to support the activities related to the organizational and coordination aspects of the Summit. Second, for the purpose of initiating the preparations for the Summit, consultations with Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations would be required. The related travel requirements for such consultations during 1993 would amount to $40,000. Third, at the initial stage of these preparations, consultants would be required to provide expertise in the preparation of background papers to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee both at its organizational session (1993) and at its first substantive session to be held in 1994. The requirements are estimated at $25,000 for 1993.

Regional preparations

6. Under the terms of operative paragraph 14, the regional commissions would include in their programmes of work for 1993 activities that would contribute to the preparations for the Summit. Such activities would focus on the preparation of reports that would address the core issues at the regional level, to be synthesized for submission to the Preparatory Committee in its deliberations. In order for representatives of the regional commissions to participate in the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee, travel requirements are estimated at $24,600.

Preparatory Committee

7. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 7 through 10, a preparatory committee open to the participation of all Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, would be established and would hold its organizational session in 1993. The establishment of such a preparatory committee constitutes an exception to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/10 C, by which the Assembly decided that preparatory committees should be established for special conferences only if that function could not be appropriately performed by an existing intergovernmental organ.

8. Taking into account that New York would be the established headquarters for the preparations of the Summit, it is assumed that the meetings of the Preparatory Committee would also be convened in New York. The cost estimates

for convening in 1993 the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee would be based on the following assumptions:

(a) The duration would be for five days in New York;

(b) There would be two meetings daily;

(c) The languages would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish;

There would be pre-session documentation of 50 pages (3 documents), in-session documentation of 30 pages (3 documents) and post-session documentation of 24 pages (1 document), to be issued in the six languages of the General Assembly.

9. The related full cost of providing conference servicing for a five-day session in New York in 1993 is estimated at $165,600 as follows:

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I.	Pre-session documentation (50 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	51 500
II.	Meeting servicing (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	58 200
III.	In-session documentation (30 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	31 900
IV.	Post-session documentation (24 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	24 000
	Total	165 600

10. The estimated conference-servicing requirements for the first, second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee to be convened in 1994 and of the Summit itself in 1995 will be dealt with in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995. Similarly, additional resources which may be required for substantive activities related to the preparation and holding of the Summit would be included in that programme budget.

Trust fund

11. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 19 and 20, the Secretary-General would establish a trust fund for the World Summit for the purpose of financing additional activities required for the preparation and holding of the Summit and the financing of the participation of the least developed countries in the Summit and its preparatory meetings.

Holding of the World Summit for Social Development

12. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3 and 4, the General Assembly would decide to convene the World Summit in early 1995 and would accept the offer of the Government of Denmark to host the Summit. It is understood that, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243, any additional costs resulting from this offer would be borne by the host Government.

13. The cost estimates for the convening of the Summit in 1995, the duration of which will be determined by the Preparatory Committee, will be dealt with in the context of the preparations for the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995.

C. Additional requirements for the biennium 1992-1993

14. The total additional requirements for 1993 would amount to $189,600 (see paras. 5-8 above), comprising $100,000 for general temporary assistance, $25,000 for consultants, $40,000 for travel of staff and $24,600 for travel of representatives of the regional commissions to the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee in 1993. These requirements would represent additional expenditures to be treated in the context of the guidelines for the use of the Contingency Fund.

15. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and in effect starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the Contingency Fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium.

16. No activities are proposed for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, in order to finance the activities proposed. In the event, therefore, that resources are not available from the Contingency Fund, the activities related to the preparations in 1993 for the World Summit would have to be postponed and the estimated costs would have to be taken into account in the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

17. With regard to the 1993 conference-servicing requirements ($165,600) those cost estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing costs requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 41 of the programme budget, and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be

determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1992-1993. However, as indicated in the programme budget, the 1992-1993 level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings known at the time of the budget preparations but also meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1992-1993 was consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 41 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51.

18. As regards the estimated requirements for 1994-1995, appropriate proposals would be made to the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

D. Summary

19. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51, an additional appropriation of $189,600 would be required under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In addition, an amount of $23,600 would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment) to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.